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Woodenlegs to receive honorary doctorate at UM commencement

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IMMEDIATELY**WOODENLEGS TO RECEIVE HONORARY
DOCTORATE AT UM COMMENCEMENT**eidel/jg
6/5/78
state**MISSOULA--**

John Woodenlegs, a Northern Cheyenne, will receive an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Montana during 1978 commencement exercises on June 11.

Woodenlegs is vice president of the Montana Council for Indian Education and a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council. He is the first Native American to receive the honorary degree from UM.

Born in Lame Deer in 1910, Woodenlegs attended schools there and in Busby, Montana and in Idaho and South Dakota. He has worked as a cowboy, coal miner, road worker and rancher and he managed the Tribal Steer Herd from 1942 to 1946. He also has been active in the Tribal Council most of his life serving as its president from 1955 to 1968.

President Lyndon Johnson appointed Woodenlegs as the only Indian member of his 25 member National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty. Woodenlegs also has served on several advisory committees for educational programs such as Upward Bound, Career Opportunities Program and Bilingual Education and has assisted with the Teacher Corps Program. He worked as a fieldworker of the Association on American Indian Affairs from 1968 to 1977.

Woodenlegs served as president of the Northern Cheyenne Native American Church from 1948 to 1975 and has been a member of the Lame Deer Public School Board of Trustees for 19 years.

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